

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 5 - OCTOBER 2019

# NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*Cleome lutea* being investigated by *Polistes aurifer*.  
Photo by J. Johnson

## SOCIETY NEWS

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### NORTHERN NEVADA EVENTS

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**October 3 – Jeanne Sharp Howerton**, author, historian, 4<sup>th</sup> generation Nevadan, and educator presents, “The Astonishing Backstory Behind the Discovery and Naming of *Primula nevadensis*, the Nevada Primrose.”

**Meetings are held in room 300G** of the Fleischmann Agriculture Building on the UNR campus, north of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Evans Avenue. Enter the building under the breezeway on the west side near the street. There’s an elevator at the east end of the building. Meet on the third floor and down the hall from the **UNR herbarium**.

**Social time at 7:00 PM**; program at 7:30. The outside doors are locked at 7:30.

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### SOUTHERN NEVADA EVENTS

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**October 7 – Dale Devitt**, UNLV Professor in School of Life Sciences and Director of the Center for Urban Water Conservation will present on his talk entitled “Assessing the impact of large scale solar development on desert ecosystems.”

Our program coordinator is Lesley DeFalco. Contact her at [defalco@usgs.gov](mailto:defalco@usgs.gov) to receive email updates for Southern Nevada events.

**Events subject to change.**  
**Visit [nvnp.org](http://nvnp.org) for updates.**



One of the 2019 SOS target species,  
Arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*).



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## SEEDS OF SUCCESS IN THE GREAT BASIN

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*Story by Sophia Heston, US Fish and Wildlife Service*

**S**eeds of Success (SOS) is a National Bureau of Land Management (BLM) program, which began in 2001, with the main goal of collecting wildland native seeds for long-term conservation storage, research, and restoration purposes. Here in Nevada, our Vice President, Sarah Kulpa, leads the only Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) SOS team in the nation. This team works in conjunction with BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) teams throughout the Great Basin. The Great Basin SOS teams' goal is to make native seed collections that are large enough to send to local growers, so they can farm them, and increase their seed. Once seed has been increased, it can be returned to the field for restoration projects that will

help promote the rejuvenation of native landscapes.

Great Basin SOS teams spend eight days at a time driving, searching, and tracking native plant populations. The FWS team is based out of Reno and covers the Winnemucca BLM District along with Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge - which covers a lot of ground. Once populations of target native species are identified, teams monitor phenology throughout the season and then, when the time is right, collect the seed. This seed is shipped to the USFS Bend Seed Extractory in Bend, Oregon, where it is cleaned and stored until it is requested for projects.



Target species for seed collection included Great Basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), and yellow beeplant (*Cleome lutea*). For every seed collection that is made, teams also collect herbarium vouchers. Herbarium vouchers get stored at the Smithsonian Institute, the UNR herbarium, and the USFS

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor Office herbarium. This year the FWS team made 15 collections, with nine being large collections. While teams in the short term are focused on changing flat tires, getting out of mud holes, or avoiding snakes, in the long term the hard work spent collecting will help restore the beautiful place we call home.



Field technician Cathy Silliman collecting Great Basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*).



Field technician Sophia Heston collecting plant materials for herbarium vouchers.



2019 crew (from left to right): Sophia Heston, field technician; Sarah Kulpa, FWS supervisor; and Cathy Silliman, field technician.

Nevada Native Plant Society  
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Reno NV 89507-8965

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